4th December 1954]

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" (a) The control over the distribution of ammonium sulphate has been taken up by this Government at the instance of the Government of India with a view to encouraging the increased use of this fertilizer and to make it available to the agriculturists at a uniform and economic rate throughout the State. The appointment of selected dealers for this purpose has been ordered accordingly.

" (b) The supply and distribution of ammonium sulphate in the country is controlled by the Government of India through the Central Fertilizer Pool and this State gets its requirements from the Central Pool only. The shortage of ammonium sulphate in this State has arisen due to the Central Fertilizer Pool not being able to arrange supplies according to the needs of this State, the phased programme drawn up by this State and the despatching instructions issued by this Government.

" (c) The requirements of the State were ascertained by the Government of India and supply was arranged through the Central Fertilizer Pool. The retail distribution was effected by the State Government as a State Trading Scheme.

" (d) Yes."

Appointment of dealers in ammonium sulphate.

* 41 Q.—SRI A. RATNAM: Will the Hon. the Minister for Agriculture be pleased to state—

(a) the number of licensed dealers in ammonium sulphate in the State selected during June and July 1954, and their terms of appointment;

(b) the number of dealers in the trade before the fertilizers were controlled;

(c) the causes for controlling fertilizers and licensing the dealers; and

(d) why Harijans have not been selected though they have applied for licences?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" (a) Two dealers in each taluk have been appointed. Of the two one is a co-operative organization. The conditions for their appointment are (i) they should open as many retail depots as possible subject to a minimum of five depots in a deltaic tract and three depots in a non-deltaic tract in the taluk; (ii) they would be allowed an all inclusive commission of not more than Rs. 20 per ton towards transport and handling charges, profit, etc., and they should sell the fertilizer at a price not exceeding Rs. 350–6–3 per ton inclusive of sales tax; and (iii) they should execute an agreement with the Government and abide by the conditions imposed by the Government in regard to the receipt, storage and distribution of ammonium sulphate.

[4th December 1954

"(b) Before the introduction of the revised arrangements, any individual or firm or co-operative society can purchase ammonium sulphate from the agricultural depots and sell it without any restriction and without any licence. Information regarding the number of persons previously engaged in the trade is not available with the Government.

"(c) The distribution of ammonium sulphate alone is now under the control of the Government. The control has been taken over at the instance of the Government of India with a view to encouraging the increased use of this fertilizer towards increasing food production and to make it available at an uniform and economic rate throughout the State.

"(d) The Government have issued instructions to the Collectors to give preference to Harijan applicants provided they satisfy the other conditions for appointment as distributors. As to the number of Harijan applicants selected, the particulars are not available with the Government and they do not consider it necessary to call for these particulars in view of the instructions referred to above."

SRI K. ARANGANATHAN :—" May I know from the Hon. Minister for Agriculture whether it is not the usual practice to pool the quantity of sulphate of ammonia required for the whole State during the months of March and April and make it available for sale in the various districts in the months of June and July? May I also know whether the delay in the distribution of sulphate of ammonia is due to the fact that the Director of Agriculture has been entrusted with the work of distributing sulphate of ammonia?"

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" I have already stated that the Government get their requirements of sulphate of ammonia from the Central Fertilizer Pool. The Government have taken all necessary steps to get the required quantity of sulphate of ammonia in time. But the Central Fertilizer Pool could not fully meet our requirements and that was the trouble."

SRI T. ANANTA PAI :—" Sir, on account of the fact that the wholesale prices are fixed and that only a commission of Rs. 20 is allowed to cover transport and other expenses and sales tax and that the margin of profit varies much between the district headquarters and the various points of distribution outside the district headquarters, most of the distributors are finding it uneconomic to undertake the responsibility of distributing sulphate of ammonia and are refusing to take it up. In view of these facts, may I know whether the Government will kindly see whether a re-examination of the position is necessary?"

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" The delivery is made for the benefit of the tillers in district headquarters and at every taluk rail head. So there should not be much difficulty in meeting transport charges."

4th December 1954]

SRI M. PALANIYANDI :—" தனிப்பட்ட வியாபாரிகளை நியமிப்பதில் என்ன கொள்கையை சர்க்கார் அனுசரித்து வருகிறார்கள்? மற்றெல்லாப் பொருள்களின் விலையும் குறைந்திருக்கும்போது, ஏன இந்த அமோனியம் சல்பேட்டினுடைய விலை மாத்திரம் குறையவில்லை ? அதன் விலையைக் குறைக்க அரசாங்கம் தகுந்த நடவடிக்கை எடுக்குமா ? "

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" About the price, Sir, there has been considerable reduction since last year. It is the Sindhri Factory that fixes the price and we have requested them to reduce the price to the minimum possible and they have been doing it.

" As regards the other part of the question, I wish to state that we have given discretion to the Collectors to select the dealers and they have, perhaps, been preferring those who have been already in the line."

SRI R. KRISHNASWAMY NAIDU :—" உர மூட்டை ஓர் இடத்திற்கு வந்த பிறகு அதை எடுத்து வினியோகிப்பதற்கு அனுமதி கிடைக்க ஒரு மாதத்திற்கு மேலாகிறது. கலெக்டர் ஆபீசில் இந்தத் தாமதம் ஏற்படுவதாக வினியோகஸ்தர்கள் சொல்லுகிறார்கள். இதனால் பருவ காலத்தில் போட உரமில்லாமல் விவசாயிகள் மிகவும் பாதிக்கப்படுகிறார்கள். இந்த தாமதத்தைத் தவிர்ப்பதற்கு அரசாங்கம் ஏதாவது நடவடிக்கை எடுத்துக்கொள்ளுமா ? "

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" I have just now been hearing from the hon. Member a complaint of this kind. If he will meet me some time and explain what exactly is the trouble, I shall look into the matter."

SRI V. K. RAMASWAMY MUDALIAR :—" May I know whether the Hon. Minister is aware of the fact that there is inordinate delay in the supply of sulphate of ammonia by the co-operative societies? When we approach the co-operative societies for the purchase of sulphate of ammonia, they say that the price has not yet been fixed and therefore they are not able to sell it. May I know from the Hon. Minister why there has been so much delay in fixing the price of sulphate of ammonia? "

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" There is no difficulty under the present arrangement in fixing the price. Prices have been fixed. If co-operative societies have not got enough stocks, it is perhaps because we have not been able to get enough stocks for distribution from the Central Fertilizer Pool. Sometimes there has been considerable delay in getting our requirements from the Sindhri Factory."

SRI P. RAMAMURTHI :—" தனிப்பட்ட வியாபாரிகளை நியமிக்கும் பொறுப்பு ஜில்லா கலெக்டரிடம் விடப்பட்டிருக்கிறதென்று கனம் மந்திரி அவர்கள் கூறினார்கள். தஞ்சை ஜில்லாவில் மன்னார்குடி தாலூகாவிலே ஸ்ரீ குன்னியூர் சாம்பசிவ அய்யர் நியமனம் பற்றி கனம் மந்திரியாருக்குத் தெரியுமா ? அவருக்குள்ள யோக்கியதாம்சங்கள் என்ன ? இதற்கு முன்னால் அவர் அமோனியம் சல்பேட் வியாபாரம் செய்திருக்கிறாரா ? "

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" I have no information, Sir, regarding the dealers who have been appointed in

[4th December 1954

the Tanjore district or in other districts. We have given discretion to the Collectors and if the hon. Member wants information on a particular selection, if he can give me notice, I shall get the necessary information and give him."

SRI P. RAMAMURTHI :—" ஸ்ரீ குன்னியூர் சாம்பசிவ அய்யர் விஷயமாக நேரடியாக வந்து கனம் மந்திரியிடத்தில் **representation** செய்தது ஞாபகம் இருக்கிறதா ? "

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" I do not think, Sir, I had any personal representation; but I had written representations. Written representations do not necessarily mean that the information contained in them is authentic information which I should give in this House. But I have caused an enquiry to be made regarding all complaints including the representations that have been referred to."

DR. K. B. MENON :—" In view of the difficulties in getting supplies of sulphate of ammonia, may I know whether the Government will consider the question of distribution through village karnams so that farmers may easily obtain sulphate of ammonia?"

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" I do not think, Sir, it is possible to get the distribution made through village karnams. Those who distribute must undertake financial responsibility for it. They must be prepared to purchase the manure and have it distributed."

SRI S. SWAYAMPRAKASAM :—" May I know whether the Hon. Minister will be pleased to state in how many cases dealers have been selected at the Ministerial level?"

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" I do not think there is any case of selection by the Ministers or at the Ministerial level."

SRI K. VINAYAKAM :—" While answering the last part of the second question, the Hon. Minister was pleased to say that Harijans were given preference. I want a direct answer as to whether the Hon. Minister has any information whether any Harijan has been selected as a dealer? My information is that no Harijan has been selected anywhere in the State as a dealer."

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" There is no question of giving any direct answer at all. I cannot say whether any Harijan has been selected or no Harijan has been selected. I have stated that the Collectors have been instructed to prefer Harijan applicants if they satisfy other requirements."

SRI A. RATNAM :—" ஹரிஜனங்கள் கொடுத்த மனுக்கள் இது விஷயமாக கவனிக்கப்பட்டதா ? அவர்களில் எத்தனை பேருக்கு லைசென்ஸ் கொடுக்கப்பட்டது என்ற விவரம் கூறமுடியுமா ? லைசென்ஸ் இருக்கும் வியாபாரிகள் விவசாயிகளுக்கு உரம் கொடுப்பதில்லை. லைசென்ஸ் இல்லாத வியாபாரிகளால் கள்ள மார்க்கெட்டில் விற்கப்படுகிறதென்பது மந்திரி யாருக்குத் தெரியுமா ? "

4th December 1954]

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" Sir, on a personal representation made by the hon. Member I got these instructions issued to the Collectors. I have also heard complaints of blackmarketing, etc., referred to by the hon. Member."

SRI V. K. PALANISAMY GOUNDER :—" With a view to popularising the sale of sulphate of ammonia, will the Government issue revised instructions to the Collectors to increase the number of distribution agencies in each firka? "

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" Sir, when we are not able to get our requirements from the Central Fertilizer Pool, it is not good to increase the number of dealers."

SRI A. K. MASILAMANY CHETTIAR :—"இதற்கு மாத்திரம் கண்ட்ரோல் வைத்துக்கொண்டு இருப்பதால் விவசாயிகளுக்கு சரியான முறையில் உரம் வினியோகிக்கப்படுவது கிடையாது. ஆகவே இதைத் தடுப்பதற்குக் கண்ட்ரோலை ஏன் எடுக்கக்கூடாது ? அதற்குக் காரணம் என்ன என்று சொல்ல முடியுமா ?"

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" Control is necessary because we do not have sufficient supply of sulphate of ammonia."

SRI P. RAMAMURTHI :—" மன்னார்குடி தாலுகாவில் இந்த உரம் வினியோகிப்பது சம்பந்தமாக இந்த சபையின் அங்கத்தினரான ஸ்ரீ ராமலிங்கம் நேரடியாக மந்திரியைப் பார்த்து எழுதிகொடுத்தபோது ஆலோசிப்பதாகக் கூறியது ஞாபகம் இருக்கிறதா ? இதுபற்றி என்ன நடவடிக்கை எடுக்கப்பட்டது ? "

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" Just now, the hon. Leader of the Opposition reminds me of the personal representations made by the hon. Member Sri Ramalingam. I forgot about it. But I did have representations in writing also. I have heard so many other representations also. I have forwarded the representations to the department. I have also asked the Secretary in-charge to go into them and call for a report from the Collector and take necessary action."

MR. SPEAKER :—" Supplementary questions on these two questions are over. We have got 19 more questions to finish in ten minutes."

Supply of medicines to the Local Fund Dispensary at Quilandy, North Malabar.

* 42 *Q*.—SRI C. KUNHIRAMA KURUP : Will the Hon. the Minister for Health be pleased to state— 11-50 a.m.

(*a*) the amount sanctioned for medicine for a year to the Local Fund Dispensary, Quilandy, Kurumbranad taluk, North Malabar; and

(*b*) whether the Government intend increasing the amount sanctioned?